

Restriction Requirement

Applicants note that the Restriction Requirement has been made final. Applicants wish to restate their containing disagreement with the Examiner's conclusions in this regard.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 23-40 are rejected as allegedly being indefinite. In view of the amendments contained herein, Applicants believe that these rejections cannot be properly maintained.

Claim 23 has been amended. Specifically, the language "present on the substrate, said substrate having depressions but otherwise being smooth" has been deleted. Thus, the redundancy cited by the Examiner is no longer present. Moreover, "a surface" has been changed to "said surface" to make clear that the surface being discussed is the same surface as the one defined in step (a).

It is believed that the Examiner's concerns regarding indefiniteness have been adequately addressed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the pending claims based on indefiniteness.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. 6,176,962 to Soane et al. ("Soane"). Applicants traverse.

The Soane reference relates to a method for fabricating polymeric microchanneled structures, and methods of bonding polymers having such micro structures to other polymers. The Examiner cites to a single portion of the "Summary" section of the patent specification, specifically column 2, line 58 through column 3, line 9, which discusses, according to the Examiner, adhesiveless bonding.

The Soane reference does not disclose what is recited in the claims, particularly as amended. There is no reference in Soane to a pressure range of "0.1 to 1000 kg/cm²", nor is there reference in Soane to a 15 minute holding period.

Because Soane does not disclose what is presently claimed, Applicants submit that the § 102 rejection based on Soane is improper and therefore, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-HUBR 1165-US (10023593) from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23. (Twice Amended) A process for the adhesive-free production of polymeric components, including the steps of:
- (a) preparing a polymeric substrate which, on at least one surface, has depressions forming micro- and/or nanochannel structures,
 - (b) applying, by uniform pressure in the range of from 0.1 to 1000 kg/cm² extending over [the] said surface, a polymeric covering to [a] said surface [present on the substrate, said substrate having depressions but otherwise being smooth],
 - (c) slowly heating [the] said substrate, with [the] said covering applied by pressure, to a temperature which is at least as high as the glass transition temperature of [the] said substrate and/or of [the] said covering and holding the substrate with the covering of such temperature for at least 15 minutes, for the bonding thereof, and
 - (d) cooling.